

The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartsville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

www.stewartsvillepc.org

Church e-mail – office@stewartsvillepc.org
Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

March 2024

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

Worship Service is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

**Holy Communion will be celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month.**

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.



Palm Sunday, March 24. We will observe Palm Sunday with the distribution of palms during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be a miniature donkey and pony rides at the church at 9:45 a.m.

We will have Time for Fellowship and an Easter egg hunt after the worship service. Children should bring their own baskets to collect goodies.

Good Friday, March 29. The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will also be broadcast via Zoom, using the Sunday Zoom link.

Easter Sunday, March 31. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be no Sunday School. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Tic-Toc Family Restaurant, 2510 Northampton St., Easton, PA.

We encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheons to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank. We had 29 people attend our February luncheon, and we collected \$56 for the food bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, March 11 to make your reservation.



Life Together – March 2024

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus answers the question of the meaning of life by encouraging those who would hear him, his followers, to focus not on the temporary but on the eternal, by investing in and storing for themselves treasures in heaven.

What are these “treasures in heaven” Jesus is talking about?

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Long explains it in this way:

“What our hearts really desire ... is to count – to count *for something* and to count *to someone*. To come to the end of a day – or the end of a life – with the satisfaction of having stood for what is good, with the joy of having been loved and having loved well in return, with the memory of having shown mercy, and with the peace of having walked with God – these are the true treasures, the treasures of the kingdom, a fortune no thief can plunder.”

Friends, the ultimate meaning of life is not found in things that are temporal or temporary, but it is found in storing for ourselves eternal treasures in heaven, by loving God and loving our neighbors.

Therefore during this Lenten season, my encouragement and challenge for you is this: Focus on loving the people around you and focus on loving God. These are the things that matter the most. These are the things that will stand the test of time.

Focus on your relationships with your family, your loved ones, your spouses, your children, your grandchildren, your friends, co-workers, and neighbors ... If there are broken or strained relationships, work on them. And ask God to bring healing and reconciliation.

Focus on loving and blessing and making a difference in the life of another. Who are the individuals, the people, the strangers, the children that God is calling you to love and to bless?

Focus also on your relationship with God. It is very easy to get so busy that we leave God out of our daily, day-to-day lives. Knowing this, let us try to keep Christ in the center of our lives and into our calendars, planners, and smart phones. Let us set aside time and make time each day: To pray and to listen, to be still and know God, and to read and mediate on God’s Word.

May God bless our efforts to store up treasures in heaven.

And may you have a blessed and meaningful Lent.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Stephen

Bessie Sinclair's 100th Birthday

We celebrated Bessie's 100th birthday at our Adult Luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 15 at the Palace Restaurant. We also celebrated Bessie's birthday at a special Time for Fellowship after the worship service on Sunday, Feb. 18.



The birthday girl!



Bessie and her daughter Janae

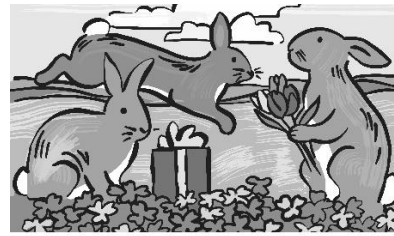


Thank You Note. We received the following thank you note from Bessie Sinclair:
"To my church family, thank you so much for celebrating my birthday twice! I enjoyed the parties and the company. Thank you all."

Daylight Saving Time.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10.

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour AHEAD or you will be late for church!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm
Charlie Henshaw
Tim Loyle
- 5 Braden Ham
- 6 Deborah Johnson
- 7 Colleen Colucci
John & Ana Wagner – Anniversary
- 10 Jacob DeHaas
John Lefler
- 11 Carol Nixon
- 13 Kathryn "Sis" Nuss
- 14 Barbara Hurte
- 15 Melanie Loyle
- 25 Shane Stecker
- 26 Brian & Shannon Ballentine –
Anniversary
- 27 Susan Marek

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



New Address. David and Carole Jochen recently moved to be closer to their son.

Their new address is:
590 Newry Lane, Apt. 224
Duncansville, PA 16635
908-246-2284

Adult Sunday School. The Adult Sunday School class has begun a new study on the Gospel of Mark.

The Adult Sunday School class meets every Sunday at 9:20 a.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Please join us!

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 8 and Friday, March 22 in the Library. This is an opportunity to gather together and work on your own projects, while having lively conversations!

For more information, call Sue Gruver at 573-999-7014.

Birthday/Anniversary List. Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please let the office know, either by calling 908-859-1399 or e-mailing office@stewartsvillepc.org We don't want to miss your special day!

Aluminum Can Tab Collection. We are continuing to collect aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

We are no longer collecting bottle caps for the Stewartsville Middle School.



Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

In February, we donated 20 bags and 3 boxes of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, Hamburger Helper, toilet paper, toothpaste, and dish soap, as well as grocery bags.

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, we participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



We received 71 cans of soup, which were donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We also received \$200, which was donated to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live from the sanctuary during the in-person worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Please be prepared with bread and juice/wine.

Please join us every Sunday morning by using the link below or by calling with the Meeting ID.

The great thing about Zoom is even if you do not have a computer or smartphone, you can still phone in to listen to the service.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@stewartsvillepc.org or call the church during our regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

For the latest news and information, please also visit the church website, www.stewartsvillepc.org

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHB5ZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, April 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We need to have 25 people registered to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at cbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

Deacons' Offering. During the month of March, we are receiving a special offering to support the work and ministry of our Deacons.

Please use the envelope in your offering box, or write a check and note "Deacons" on the memo line.

For online giving, please go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Deacons.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, March 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Tacos Y Tequila, 20 Kunkle Dr., Easton.

All women are invited to join us for a meal, good conversations, and the opportunity to encourage one another.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Women's Spring Retreat. The Women's Spring Retreat will be held from Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28 at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. You may also attend the Saturday session only.

Registration is now open and is predicted to fill up quickly.

Scholarships are available through our church.

If you are interested in attending, please speak with Linda Williams.

For information on scholarships, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



One Great Hour of Sharing. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent. We will receive this offering through Easter, March 31. The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2024 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line. If you are giving online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and then OGHS.

Camp Johnsonburg. Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the 4 New Jersey Presbyteries, offers summer programs for children and youth entering 1st through 12th grade.

You can view the brochure and available camp sessions at www.campjburg.org Camp Scholarships are available through our church. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.



Easter Flower Order Form

We are offering a choice of assorted colors of Daffodils or Tulips.

Please specify which flower you are ordering.

Please order _____ Daffodils.

Please order _____ Tulips.

All flowers are \$5.00 per 6” potted plant.

(Cash or checks payable to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, with “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.)

Total due \$ _____

The deadline for orders is Sunday, MARCH 17th

Name _____

Please write your name as you wish it to appear in the dedication in the bulletin.

Phone Number _____

In Memory Of: _____

OR

In Honor Of: _____

___ Please deliver the plant to a member or friend of the congregation.

___ I will pick up the plant after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Session Notes – February 26, 2024



- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Cindy Bowman.
- The session once again made the commitment to pray for every member and regular visitor of our church by name throughout the year.
- The session prayerfully approved donations to two local families in need.
- Our March 17 blood drive has been changed to Sunday, April 7.
- Cindy Bowman and Denise DeMasi will serve as the session representatives on the Nominating Committee; Nancy Sampson will serve as the deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.
- Denise DeMasi was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, March 12. (The Presbytery of the Highlands has 5 stated presbytery meetings a year.)
- Approval was given to Stewartsville Grange #121 for the use of Roan Hall on Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, May 18.
- Approval was also given for the private use of Roan Hall on Saturday, June 22.
- Pastor Stephen will be on continuing education study leave May 13-19.
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, March 25.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of January 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$133 in our General Fund Budget.
- As we concluded our meeting, we committed to praying for one another and our church, lifted up our joys and concerns, and closed with the Lord's Prayer.



2024 Dominican Republic Mission Trip. We are planning a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer. The dates are July 12-20.

We will be working again with Foundation for Peace to help build a church. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

Photographers Needed! We are looking for people to take photos of church events for our Newsletter. Anyone with a smart phone is qualified!

Upcoming events include taking photos on Palm Sunday of the pony rides and donkey, and the children's Easter Egg Hunt.

All you would need to do is take a few photos and email them to the office, or you can text the photos to Renée Herb, our Office Manager.

We would like to get a group of volunteers that can rotate taking photos throughout the year.

If you are able to help, please contact the church office.



Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – March 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 8 am Friday Devotional Group | 2 |
| 3 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA | 4 | 5 | 6 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA | 7 | 8 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group | 9 10 am Samplemakers |
| 10 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA | 11 | 12 | 13 7 pm AA | 14 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group 7 pm Grange | 15 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts Group | 16 |
| 17 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA | 18 | 19 | 20 6 pm AA | 21 | 22 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6 pm Womens Circle | 23 |
| 24 Palm Sunday 9:20 am Sunday School 9:45 am Donkey & Pony Rides 10:30 am Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt after Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA | 25 7 pm Session Meeting | 26 | 27 6 pm AA | 28 | 29 Good Friday 7 pm Service of Shadows | 30 |
| 31 Easter No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA | | | | | | |